

One More Open Letter
to my Fellow-members of
The Theosophical Society

LETTER NO. 11

JUNE 21st, 1939

DEAR BRETHREN,

I have been writing my various letters to my fellow members under the insistent pressure of my conviction that it is vital to the world's present redemption for every real Theosophist, for every member of The Theosophical Society, to shine forth amidst his surroundings with the utmost of his light. I have, during the whole of the present world crisis, felt, literally almost to the bursting point, that no effort, no sacrifice, no burden can be too much for any one of us to bear, if the bearing can in any way be of help to the world.

Each one of us is not only in the midst of a world crisis. He is also in the midst of a personal crisis. He is at one of the great turning-points in his evolutionary career. Either he will for a considerable period fall back among the crowd and

cease to help to lead it, or he will move forward with the few to show the way to the many.

Today is a Day of Judgment. Today is a Day of Choice. The Theosophist must either follow the world or lead the world. And let me say most emphatically, there is no Theosophist, there is no member of The Theosophical Society, who cannot lead the world, even though unbeknown to the world, however obscurely he may live, or however ill-equipped he may feel himself to be.

It is not what he feels himself to be that matters. It is not his inadequacy that matters. It is the fact that in him is dwelling the great intuition which impelled him to become a member of The Theosophical Society and a student of Theosophy, and which now can help him clearly to distinguish between the Real and the unreal, thus to strengthen the world to move away from the unreal to the Real, from darkness to Light, and from death to Life. With his intuition ever at his disposal, he should himself constantly try to live in terms of the Real, in terms of Light, in terms of Life. Such living will vibrate throughout his

surroundings and change them to their betterment.

But quite recently this thought of the Day of the Theosophist's Judgment has become more and more insistent, so that I feel impelled to write once more on the same theme, stressing it, perhaps, from a slightly different angle.

I want to point out that if we are to choose rightly, and if we are to be weighed in the balance and not to be found wanting, we can summon to our aid three qualities, the exercise of each of which will, I think, help us successfully to pass the examination offered to us.

The first of these qualities is *Courage*, which is the antithesis of despair and hopelessness, of depression and sense of failure, of doubt as to the eventual victory and diffidence as to our power to achieve it. At all costs, and in all circumstances, Courage must ever remain with us—a fiery Courage, almost an aggressive Courage, but always a gracious and chivalrous Courage. We Theosophists must be known for our Courage. We must be known as a courageous band of people, both collectively and individually. Whatever else we

may lack, we can still be true Theosophists if only we have Courage.

The second of these qualities is *Faith*. We must have Faith. Faith in whom? Faith in what? It matters not. What we need is the Faith that is Faithfulness, the Faithfulness that is very loyal and very true. Let every Theosophist choose his own object of Faithfulness. Let him choose God, if he will. Let him choose a great virtue, if he will. Let him choose a cause, if he will. Let him choose himself, his Self, if he will. And this Faithfulness must know no dimming. It must be a Faithfulness unto death, and, as we Theosophists know, even beyond death. Let us look among our great leaders and decide for ourselves as to the Faithfulness of each. What was the Faithfulness of H. P. Blavatsky? What was the Faithfulness of Colonel Olcott, of Annie Besant, of C. W. Leadbeater? What was the Faithfulness of any great One before whom we bow in reverence? Let us dwell amidst great Faithfulnesses, so that we may the more easily discover what is our own.

Then there is the quality of *Goodwill*, with its ascent into Reverence and its

descent into Compassion. Where there is real Goodwill, there is bound to be Reverence and there is bound to be Compassion. We cannot be truly friendly without soaring into the heights of Reverence, nor without sweeping downwards into the depths of Compassion.

Of course, without Understanding, there can be no wise Goodwill. But then we are Theosophists, and Theosophy is the great Well of Understanding. Where we do not understand, where we feel hostile, where we feel aggrieved or persecuted, where we feel misunderstood, there are we ourselves in danger of misunderstanding. We must bring our understanding to the promotion of Goodwill wherever there seems to be reason for illwill, either because we ourselves disapprove or because we ourselves are disapproved. Goodwill must know no barriers, no limitations, for if it knows these, we may not be able to ascend even the hills of Reverence, still less into the mountains thereof. If it know such barriers, we may not be able to descend into the valleys of Compassion, still less into its greater depths. We Theosophists must be more than tolerant. Tolerant, I hope, we are already. Theosophy

is for that Understanding which is the wisdom and constancy of tolerance.

Courage, Faith, Goodwill. These will see us through this Day of our Judgment, through this time for our choosing. Let us study Theosophy that our Courage, our Faith and our Goodwill may be wiser, nobler, and more and more constant. And let these three qualities shine more and more through our individual membership of The Theosophical Society.

If we win through this Day of Judgment, if we choose rightly, then shall we indeed draw near to our Elder Brethren, and become numbered amongst Their helpers. Then shall we enter into that new happiness which is ever restless until it reigns throughout the world.

Fraternally yours,

Georges S. Arundale

P.S.—May I say that I wrote this letter on June, the 21st, which I am reminded is the fifth anniversary of my election as third President of The Theosophical Society? This day is indeed a Day of Judgment for me, and I should like to assure every one of my fellow members that I am ever deeply sensible of the honour they have conferred upon me, and of my responsibility to them and to Those who have given Theosophy and The Theosophical Society to our new world.

